



Just Vision and Films That Change The World present

ENCOUNTER POINT: Purim To Passover Campaign
Screening Discussion Guide

About Just Vision: Just Vision creates and disseminates media and educational resources about nonviolent efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Just Vision's critically acclaimed feature documentary film, *Encounter Point*, provides a new, non-divisive lens on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, through the eyes of courageous individuals working at a grassroots level for change. We encourage community groups, religious institutions and educators to use *Encounter Point* and Just Vision's online resources as a catalyst for learning.

"For the first time, Palestinians and Israelis are meeting to share their pain. We're meeting about the issues that politicians use to justify killing." -Ali Abu Awwad, *Encounter Point*

"There is no pro-Israeli or pro-Palestinian. There is pro-solution." -Robi Damelin, *Encounter Point*

Jointly produced by a Palestinian, Israeli, North and South American team of young women, *Encounter Point* has screened from New York to Dubai to Jerusalem, Jenin, Ramallah, Sderot and Tel Aviv. It has been endorsed by the World Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace and by the Israeli Ministry of Education. *Encounter Point* has screened at the Tribeca Film Festival, the Alliance of Civilizations in Madrid, and on Al Arabiya satellite TV. Across the globe, *Encounter Point* is inspiring audiences to look beyond the mainstream media's portrayal of violence and militancy to a movement of ordinary people working to build peace from the ground up.

FURTHER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: If you are able to explore the film in more depth than a one time discussion allows, the **Classroom Screening Guide** (for high school and college) includes discussion topics and homework assignments on peace-building, civic leadership and media literacy, and additional resources. The **Community Screening Guide** includes discussion topics and suggested ways to get involved. Free at <http://www.encounterpoint.com/dvd/index.php>. For the screening guide in Hebrew, write to anat@justvision.org, and to rula@justvision.org to learn about the forthcoming Arabic screening guide.

Trailers, reviews and more information about *Encounter Point* are online at: www.encounterpoint.com. The consumer copy of *Encounter Point* is available online from Typecast Films. More information about Just Vision, and in-depth interviews with dozens of Israeli and Palestinian civilians working to stem hatred and promote reconciliation and nonviolence are online at www.justvision.org.

USING THE FILM TO CREATE DISCUSSION AND DIALOGUE

Below, please find ideas and questions to help shape your post-screening discussion; please feel free to select those you think will best generate discussion at your screening. For public events, filmmakers and trained facilitators may be available; please contact aleza@filmsthatchangetheworld.org for more information.

General Discussion Questions

Reactions

- Almost everyone who has seen *Encounter Point* reports learning something new, identifying with a particular character or statement, and, given the scope of the issue, feeling the film omits something. Share something you gained from watching the film, one thing that rang true for you, and one thing you felt was missing (if there was something).
- Compare and contrast the Palestinian and Israeli experiences of nonviolence. What are the difficulties each side experiences in their quest for dialogue? How do they respond to opposition from within their communities?

Media

- How is *Encounter Point's* portrayal of Palestinians, Israelis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict different from other media portrayals you have seen?
- Would you like to see changes in how this conflict is covered in the media? How? What is your role as a media consumer?

Leadership

- Do your leaders' (political, religious, or otherwise) approaches to this conflict reflect your own?
- What role would you like your leaders to assume regarding the conflict?
- What windows of opportunity exist for letting your leadership know your views?

Education

- How can we better prepare young people to engage in peace-building locally and globally?
- What does an educational approach that is neither "pro-Israeli" nor "pro-Palestinian" look like, and what resources are needed?

Action

- What is needed for grassroots nonviolence and peace-building efforts to succeed?
- How can you and your community be part of those efforts?
- With whom would you like to share *Encounter Point*?
- What resources do you need to get involved?
- What does *Encounter Point* inspire you to do?

Discussion Questions on Purim and Passover themes

Risk-Taking: In the story of Purim, Queen Esther takes a risk when she tells King Ahasuerus she is Jewish in order to save her people.

- What are the people in *Encounter Point* risking, and with what aim?
- What feels risky for you about moving toward a future in which both Israelis and Palestinians can thrive in the region?
- What are *you* willing to risk in order to achieve this?

Liberation: Passover and Purim encourage us to think about liberation, both personal and communal.

- Where do you see possibilities for personal or communal liberation in *Encounter Point*?
- What would liberation mean for the different people in *Encounter Point*?
- What is your definition of liberation when it comes to this conflict? What might the consequences for others be?

Suggested Follow up Activity: Bring Just Vision interviewees' quotations on freedom to your Passover Seder. Contact nahanni@justvision.org to receive a pdf document.

Leadership, Identity, and Fate: the Passover and Purim stories contain elements of masking and unmasking, hiding, and people taking control of their destiny. In addition to God's role, both these stories also focus on human agency, in particular, the leadership of everyday people. *Encounter Point* focuses primarily on everyday people, rather than political leaders.

- What is gained and lost in focusing on the leadership of everyday people?
- To what extent do the people in *Encounter Point* reveal who they are, or hide it, in order to accomplish their goals? Is this an element of leadership?
- How have the events that shaped the *Encounter Point* characters' lives also shaped their activism and leadership?
- In regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, where might you wield influence?

Suggested Action Steps

Just Vision resources community groups to support nonviolent peace-building work between Israelis and Palestinians. As a non-partisan organization, it does not prescribe policy. If your group wishes to take on a specific agenda in relation to these action steps, you may still use *Encounter Point* as a convening tool.

- Organize *Encounter Point* screenings in religious or community centers, schools, or government venues. Bring together community groups or leaders that don't normally work together for a follow up discussion.
- Write to the media to request more coverage of nonviolence and peace-building efforts by Palestinians and Israelis (JV provides a template: www.justvision.org/en/what_you_can_do). Be sure to address your letter to a relevant journalist, bureau chief or editor.
- Encourage a religious figure to incorporate quotes or stories of Israeli and Palestinian peace builders

- into their sermons (suggest *Encounter Point* or the Just Vision website as a reference).
- Write to politicians to request they take a more active, even-handed approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with attention to civic engagement in the peace process.
 - Encourage educators to incorporate the stories of peace-builders into their classrooms. Let them know about the free *Encounter Point* Classroom Screening Guide and Just Vision's online profiles of peace-builders.
 - Form a group committed to meeting regularly for discussion and action.
 - Adopt-A-Peacemaker: Research Israeli and Palestinian peace and nonviolence organizations (over 100 are listed online at http://www.justvision.org/en/what_you_can_do, and you may read portraits of Palestinian and Israeli peace builders at www.justvision.org/en/profile). Pick one to support, and organize a fundraising campaign. Call a journalist to ask for coverage of their work.
 - Contribute to the work of Just Vision and other NGOs supporting Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.

Please Support the Work of Just Vision

Just Vision produced and released *Encounter Point* in 2006 to critical acclaim. Since its premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival, *Encounter Point* has reached millions of people in over 200 cities around the world, from New York to Dubai to Jerusalem, Jenin, Ramallah, Sderot and Tel Aviv. It has been endorsed by the World Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace and the Israeli Ministry of Education. *Encounter Point* has screened at the United Nations' Alliance of Civilizations conference in Madrid and on Al Arabiya satellite TV.

By demonstrating to educators, journalists, community leaders and youth that civilians can play a constructive role in peace building, we aim to inspire those who are not yet involved to explore and take part in conflict resolution work. Our message is that ordinary people have the capacity to non-violently tackle if not resolve elements of the conflict. We seek to instill a sense of agency, urgency and hope among potential activists and shed new light on the role of peace builders in the conflict resolution process. In this way, we hope to contribute to fostering peace by rendering Palestinian and Israeli civic peace builders more visible, effective and valued in their efforts.

If you enjoyed *Encounter Point*, we hope that you will consider making a minimum contribution of \$10 to *Just Vision* so that we can equip community leaders, teachers, activists and others in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories with our film and other resources so that they can continue to engage people on the ground and spread a message of hope among these two societies. If you are interested in making a larger contribution, you can do so on our secure website at www.justvision.org, or by mail: *Just Vision*, 1616 P Street NW, Suite 340, Washington DC 20036.